

Downton Parish Council

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Mr Richard Fishlock
Chair of Board of Governors
Downton Primary School
Gravel Close
Downton Salisbury
Wiltshire SP5 3LZ

16th July 2015

Dear Mr Fishlock

Re: Letter and Petition in support of Downton Primary School's proposed expansion for consideration by Downton Parish Council

I am writing on behalf of the members of Downton Parish Council to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 21st June 2015, enclosing the Primary School's petition and to advise you of the position of the Parish Council.

The Parish Council went to the Primary School in the first instance before it met with Mr Nick Glass of Wiltshire Council in 2012, with the idea of offering to lease the land in the Memorial Gardens to enable the school to expand.

In 2013 it set a key priority of "working in partnership with the Head Teacher and the Governors of Downton Primary School, to ensure that all children of primary school age living in Downton Parish, are given a right of entry to Downton Primary School". This took place long before residents, parents and others expressed their support for the same goal through the Primary School's petition.

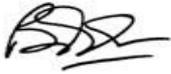
The evidence set out above, together with the tremendous amount of collaborative work carried out by the New Housing Development Committee over the last two years was successful. The repeated lobbying of Wiltshire Council secured both the funding that the school now has and enabled the submission of the planning application. This clearly demonstrates that the Parish Council is supportive of the expansion of the school. It also shows that it is committed to safeguarding the future provision of primary education in Downton, whilst also being willing to compromise on behalf of the community, by giving up part of an important and valued community asset.

However, the Parish Council cannot ignore the views of the residents it represents; including those who express reasonable views which are not supportive of some aspects of the school's planning application.

The Parish Council considered the school's letter and petition at its meeting on 13th July 2015. Members concluded, having already correctly anticipated the support in the community for the school's expansion, that their position on the specifics of the current planning application remains as set out in the Parish Council's Newsletter published on 23rd June.

Following the outcomes agreed at the meeting with Wiltshire Council on 3rd July, the Parish Council looks forward to working with the Governing Body to realise the expansion of the school in a way which has the support of the wider community.

Yours sincerely



Bev Cornish
Clerk to the Council